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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,720	02/16/2006	Heiko Bald	GP-307708	9584

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GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION
LEGAL STAFF
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DETROIT, MI 48265-3000

EXAMINER

GLUCHOWSKI, KRISTINA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/568,720	BALD, HEIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kristina R. Gluchowski	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9,10,13,14,17,18 and 21-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9,10,13,14,17,18 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 May 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 5/15/07. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 13-14, 17-18 and 21-28 are pending. Claims 7-8, 11-12, 15-16 and 19-20 are cancelled.

Claims 21-28 are new.

Drawings

The drawings submitted 5/15/07 are accepted.

Claim Objections

The claim objections in the previous office action are withdrawn in light of the amendments submitted 5/15/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The 112 rejection in the previous office action is overcome by the amendments submitted 5/15/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 13-14, 17-18 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suparschi (US 2001/0005082).

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3. Regarding claim 1, Suparschi shows a central locking system (see paragraph [0003]) for vehicle doors comprising an electrical switch (34 and 44) for changing the central locking system to a locking or an unlocking state and an opening lever (16) which is pivotable disposed at an inside of a vehicle door (paragraph [0001]), for opening thereof wherein the switch is associated with the opening lever inside the door such that when the opening lever is pivoted out of an inoperative position into a first switched position, it effects a locking or an unlocking state of the central locking system and the locking or unlocking state is maintained until the opening lever is again pivoted into its first switched position (see paragraphs [0061-62]).

4. Regarding claim 2, when the opening lever is pivoted out of inoperative position into a mechanical opening position (see paragraph [0046]) the lever passes through a second switched position in which the switch generates a signal for changing the central locking system over to the unlocking state (see figure 4 for the unlocking position).

5. Regarding claims 3 and 4, the switch (34,44) is integrated into a mechanism (the housing, 26) of the opening lever.

6. Regarding claims 5-6, the switch is "associated in a rotationally rigid manner" with a pivot pin (37) of the opening lever (paragraph [0051]).

7. Regarding claims 9-10 and 13-14, the opening lever automatically returns from its switched position and the opening position to its inoperative position (paragraph [0039]).

8. Regarding claims 17-18, the opening lever returns in a spring-loaded fashion to the inoperative position (see paragraph [0039]).

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9. Regarding claim 21, Suparschi shows a central locking system for vehicle doors, comprising an electrical switch (34, 44) for changing the central locking system over to a locking or an unlocking state, and an opening lever (16), which is pivotably disposed at an inside at least of one vehicle door, for opening thereof, wherein the switch is associated with the opening lever inside the vehicle door such that, when the opening lever is pivoted out of an inoperative position into a first switched position, it effects a locking or an unlocking state of the central locking system, and the locking or unlocking state is maintained until the opening lever is again pivoted into its first switched position, and wherein the switch is "associated in a rotationally rigid manner" with a pivot pin (A1) that mounts the opening lever on the at least one door so that the switch is operated directly by the pivot pin that rotates with the operating lever (the switch is operated when the handle pivots on A1, the switch will not function without pivot A1).

10. Claim 22 is rejected by Suparschi as applied to claim 2 above.

11. Claims 23-24 are rejected by Suparschi as applied to claims 17-18 above.

12. Regarding claim 25, Suparschi an electrical switch (34, 44) for changing the central locking system over to a locking or an unlocking state, an opening lever (16) which is pivotably disposed at an inside at least of one vehicle door for opening thereof, wherein the switch is associated with the opening lever inside the vehicle door such that, when the opening lever is pivoted by pushing outwardly (figure 9) from an inoperative position into a first switched position it effects a locking or an unlocking state of the central locking system, and when the operating lever is pivoted inwardly (figure 8) out of the inoperative position into a mechanical opening position for the vehicle door,

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the opening lever passes through a second switched position in which the switch generates a signal for changing the central locking system over to the unlocking state, and the locking or unlocking state is maintained until the opening lever is again pivoted into its first switched position.

13. Regarding claim 26, the switch is “associated in a rotationally rigid manner” with a pivot pin (A1) of the opening lever.

14. Claim 27 is rejected by Suparschi as applied to claims 9-10 and 13-14 above.

15. Claim 28 is rejected by Suparschi as applied to claims 21 and 27 above. See the Suparschi device below.

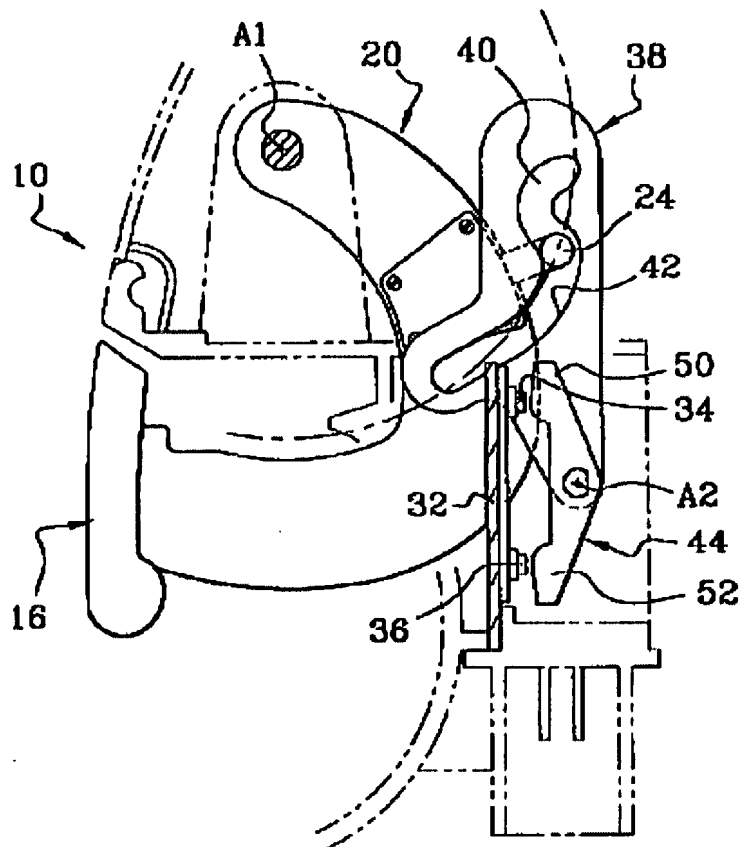


FIG. 3

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/15/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding the argument that Suparschi does not suggest a central locking system, the examiner respectfully disagrees and brings applicant's attention to paragraph [0003] where Suparschi states "...the invention is applied as part of a security system for cars...under the control of a central theft proof system...".

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Regarding the argument that applicant's invention is "vastly simplified arrangement in which a switch is associated in a rotationally rigid manner with a pivot pin...", the examiner would like to note that even if Suparschi teaches more than applicant's invention, ALL of the CLAIMED limitations are included in the teaching. Also, please note that "associated in a rotationally rigid manner" is broadly interpreted and should be amended to better describe the "association" and "manner" in which the components interact.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristina R. Gluchowski whose telephone number is 571-


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272-7376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-4:30pm, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer Gay can be reached on (571) 272-7029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KRG 
July 18, 2007


JENNIFER H. GAY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER